(b) The amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of handicrafts including hand knitted carpets during the last 3 years is as under:—

| | (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 4458.30 |
| 1995-96 | 4980.15 |
| 1996-97 (Upto July) | 1946.83 |

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the export of handicrafts items includes sponsoring of sales-cum-study team abroad; organisation of buyer-seller's meet, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair and Carpet Expo annually.

**Involvement of Defence forces in rescue operation in Andhra Pradesh**

1978. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force were involved in the rescue and relief operations during the recent Cyclone in Coastal Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the extent and their achievements in these operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rescue and relief operations were carried out by Army, Navy and Air Force during the recent cyclone in Coastal Andhra Pradesh. On 8th November, 1996, 10 medical officers, 107 medical assistants with six ambulances were deployed for providing medical assistance in cyclone affected area. A total of 390 patients were treated.

The Air Force flew 23 helicopter sorties from 10th to 19th November, 1996 involving airlifting of 23.645 tons of load and 7 passengers. Between 8 to 10 November, 1996 two Indian Navy ships and two Indian Navy helicopters along with one Coast Guard ship and one Coast Guard aircraft carried out simultaneous search and rescue operations and provided flood relief. More than 20 sorties were carried out involving the dropping of 1200 kgs of food packets and medicines to stranded people. About 50 to 60 bodies were located over land and reported to relief centres. 7 more bodies were picked up at sea. A trawler with five fishermen was located, the boat repaired and the crew provided with food and medicine. A life raft was air dropped for the survivors of the boat to come ashore.All officers and men of Indian Navy voluntarily contributed one day's ration for the affected people.

**Sale of powerlooms in Orissa**

1979. SHRI RAHASBIHARIBARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to sell all the powerlooms set up in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the workers engaged in those powerlooms would be given employment in the powerlooms after privatisation; and

(d) the other steps being taken to protect the interest of these powerloom workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Demand for the coarse/Janata doth in the country**

1980. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the demand for coarse/Janata cloth in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage gap between demand and supply thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of such cloth produced during the each of the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no assessment of demand of Janata cloth available but there has been continuous reduction in the